



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, March 9, 2011 Brooks House – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif, Chair
Jason Poitras
Colleen Shapiro
Donna White – absent
Gregory Berthiaume

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Jen Markham

Guests

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report – None.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes – None.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – On the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes reminded everyone of her recommended budget amount in January. She broke down the highlights of what was included in that budget. The Town Manager's recommended school budget on February 15 was \$739,471 below the superintendent's. Superintendent Calmes reported that Circuit Breaker could return to 75% (in house budget). The gap was reduced to \$610,471 in the superintendent's modified budget on February 24. Budget drivers include the reduction of stimulus funds, declining enrollment and the reduction in the number of Shirley students attending the high school as non-residents. Superintendent Calmes stated she asked the members of the administrative team to look at where they could make cuts in their budgets, to cover the gap of \$610,471. The superintendent reminded everyone that there are several staff members being shared among schools and she recapped the staffing changes made over the past several years, including all the reductions. We have worked toward making the food services program and the extended day program being self-sustaining, and we have achieved that. We will be implementing a new student data management system for next year. Not all cuts/reductions are listed because of the impacts associated with them. The superintendent has asked the bus company to review the routes to see if there could be any further reductions in terms of the number of busses. There are 560 students riding on the a.m. run to TCP and Primary, and 468 riding to THMS and LHS. We may possibly have to charge a bus fee for students in grades 7 through 12. We could also charge for transporting under two miles but are not willing to look at that. The fee would be \$135 per student per year. FY12 reductions may include one tutor in the LHS academic support center and an 8th grade teacher at THMS (new configuration has not been determined yet); class size would be 25/26. Also, elimination of one tutor giving classroom support at TCP – considered dropping a section of grade 3, but determined it was not in the best interest of the children; reduction of part-time music teacher at Primary school; athletics – cut middle school basketball, LHS golf & LHS tennis – no change in fee of \$185; defer capital improvement/furniture - furniture replacement has been deferred for 3rd consecutive year; professional development would be cut in half to \$13,000; administration reduction/reconfiguration is being considered – possibly sharing a curriculum/PD person with another district. We have already reconfigured our data

management and accounting positions. In addition, other reductions may include special education teachers/tutors/aides at Primary, TCP & THMS; LHS teacher (science/industrial technology/PE/Health) reduction OR full-time kindergarten reduced to half-day – possibly consider full-day with parents paying tuition. The cost difference from full-day to half-day kindergarten is \$251,000. Chapter 70 will be adjusted down the road because of the half-day instead of full-day students. Superintendent Calmes has concerns around charging for full-day kindergarten. Tuition would be approximately \$4,500 per student per year. We would be at risk of losing students to school choice with half-day K or tuitioned full-day K. This is the working list – not a final list. Superintendent Calmes recommended to the school committee that they initiate a study regarding reconfiguration of grades/buildings within the district and design a budget around that reconfiguration for FY13. We are looking for sustainability in a very challenging time. The superintendent also suggested the school committee investigate/pursue partnerships to sustain programs such as the LHS horticulture program and greenhouse and athletics. There was discussion around the possible reductions and the impact that would be felt from them. School choice numbers were also briefly discussed. Dr. Reif asked for Mr. McCauliff to consider what the impact would be if the athletic fee is dropped to \$150. We could possibly get more students to participate and be able to collect more fees.

* Student Report – Ms. Jen Markham reported the following:

- The girls basketball team advanced to the second round of districts.
- The Mock Trial team is doing very well. They are in the March Madness competition, which consists of the top 16 teams in the state.
- The annual Career Day is this Friday. This year it will include a college fair and a college freshman panel.
- The high school recently held a blood drive; 60 students and teachers donated blood.

* Public Comment – Clarence Floyd of 727 Goodrich Street addressed the committee. He doesn't think a 2 ½ override would be a good idea. There are many people on fixed incomes, without cost of living raises. He would like to see some giving back by the people at the schools receiving the bulk of the salary money.

* New Business

* Old Business -

- a. Action – Warrant Articles for Town Meeting – Override & Building – Superintendent Calmes informed the committee that the MSBA has not yet responded back to us. A discussion ensued around whether to pursue an override to cover the budget gap. The general consensus was that the support level would probably be pretty low. There was also a discussion around putting a placeholder on the town warrant to repair the roof at the high school. It was agreed upon that they would not have enough information in time for that.
- b. Action – Rental Agreement with Community Public Access – Superintendent Calmes brought forward the lease agreement for the cable public access group to use the Brooks House. The rental fee is \$500 per month. The agreement also has an addendum with very specific details. The superintendent recommended approval on a six-month trial basis. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. There was discussion around handicapped accessibility. Vote: unanimous. Superintendent Calmes is also talking with the Mass Family Network group about possibly using the Brooks House for their playgroups.

* Public Comment – Two seats on the School Committee will be vacant this year. Dr. Reif will run again and Mr. Poitras will not.

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO
- e. Policy Sub-Committee
- f. Capital Planning Committee
- g. Health Advisory Committee

- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Regional Planning Committee
- j. Rep. Benson's Advisory
- l. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion -

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

* Executive Session – At 8:07 p.m. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, for the purpose of discussing strategies related to collective bargaining..

Roll Call

Dr. Reif – yes

Mr. Poitras – yes

Ms. Shapiro – yes

Ms. White – absent

Dr. Berthiaume – yes

* Adjournment – At 8:41 Mr. Poitras moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to adjourn regular session.
Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/24/15/mel